

Senate Watch

A summary of today's Senate actions;
published daily when the Senate is in session.



5/6/08

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

[SB 115](#)

(Birkholz)

The bill would amend the Joint Municipal Planning Act to do the following:

- Allow the phased transfer to a joint planning commission of the powers and duties of existing planning commissions or zoning boards.
- Allow participating municipalities to adopt a joint zoning ordinance, with the joint planning commission acting as the zoning commission.
- Refer to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, as well as procedures under that act, instead of to specified zoning acts.

- The Senate concurred in the House substitute H-2 [RC 284: 38 yes, 0 no]
- IE was ordered

[SB 751](#)

(Pappageorge)

The Management and Budget Act currently says that it is the goal of the Department of Management and Budget to award not less than three percent of its total expenditures for construction, goods, and services to qualified disabled veterans. Senate Bill 751 would raise the goal to five percent. Under the act, a "qualified disabled veteran" is defined to mean a business entity that is 51 percent or more owned by one or more veterans with a service-connected disability.

- IE was ordered

[SB 1007](#)

(Birkholz)

The bill would amend the Grade A Milk Law of 2001 (MCL 288.471 et seq.), which regulates all milk for drinking, as well as milk products such as yogurt, sour cream, eggnog, and half and half.

- IE was ordered

THIRD READING

SB 382

(Kuipers)

Senate Bill 382 (S-3) would amend the Occupational Code to do all of the following:

- Require licensure, rather than registration, for a person to engage in the practice of landscape architecture.
- Allow an unlicensed person to perform or offer certain landscaping services if he or she did not use the term "landscape architect".
- Require the Director of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) to appoint one or more ad hoc committees to assist in adopting rules for continuing education and continuing competency, providing for exceptions to the licensing standards, and establishing recommendations for license sanctions for violations.
- Require a majority of ad hoc committee members to be licensed architects.
- Require a demonstration of continuing professional competence for renewal of a license as a landscape architect.
- Allow DLEG to issue a landscape architecture license without examination to an applicant who was legally registered, licensed, or regulated in another state or country whose requirements were at least substantially equivalent to Michigan's requirements.

- SB 382 was passed [RC 285: 38 yes, 0 no]

SB 383

(Kuipers)

Senate Bill 383 (S-3) would amend the State License Fee Act to increase the application fee for landscape architects from \$35 to \$200, and require a \$60 annual license fee rather than a \$40 annual registration fee.

- SB 383 was passed [RC 286: 38 yes, 0 no]

SB 943

(Stamas)

The bill would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate Highway M-72 in Alcona County as the "Hazen Shirley 'Kiki' Cuyler Memorial Highway".

- SB 943 was passed [RC 287: 38 yes, 0 no]

HB 5695

(Mayes)

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to delete the following:

- Provisions for securing logs or tubular products being transported on a highway.
- Requirements for securing logs transported in a crib vehicle, which are subject to an amendment of Federal law and a waiver of certain Federal regulations.

- HB 5695 was passed [RC 288: 38 yes, 0 no]
- IE was ordered

SB 1085**(Richardville)**

The bill would amend Part 401 (Wildlife Conservation) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to do the following:

- Eliminate a January 4, 2009, sunset on a section that governs the taking of live raptors for use in falconry.
- Delete a limit on the number of raptors that may be taken.
- Eliminate provisions regulating the conditions under which raptors may be taken.

Under Section 40107a, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must issue an order establishing a season or seasons for falconers to take a total of up to 25 live raptors per year from any combination of red-tailed hawks, Cooper's hawks, American kestrels, and sharp-shinned hawks for use in falconry. In addition to these 25 raptors, the order must allow the issuance of two permits annually to take northern goshawks during the fall passage season. The order must designate the number of raptors that may be taken and possessed and any other conditions pertaining to the taking and possession of raptors that the DNR considers advisable. The bill would eliminate the 25-bird maximum, as well as references to particular species and the additional northern goshawk permits.

Additionally, the order must prohibit the taking of raptors on national lakeshores, national recreation areas, and all State land. It must require licensed falconers to contact property owners or land managers and obtain written permission before making direct contact with any raptor nest. It must provide that only licensed falconers may have direct contact with the raptor nest and that a licensed falconer must leave in a nest at least two healthy young raptors. A licensed falconer must report the nest location from which a raptor is taken by county, township, range, and section to the DNR within five business days after taking the raptor. The bill would delete these provisions.

- SB 1085 was passed [RC 289: 38 yes, 0 no]

SB 1122**(Patterson)**

The bill would amend the Michigan Renaissance Zone Act to allow the board of the Michigan Strategic Fund to designate five additional alternative energy renaissance zones, which would have to focus on the production of cellulosic biofuels.

- SB 1122 was passed [RC 290: 38 yes, 0 no]

GENERAL ORDERS

HB 5085**(Mayes)**

The bill (substitute S-1) would amend Part 821 (Snowmobiles) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to do the following:

- Require a snowmobile registration to include the names and addresses of holders of any security interest in the snowmobile.
- Permit the Department of State to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue a snowmobile

registration if the applicant did not provide all the required information, if all the required fees had not been paid, or under other circumstances.

-- Establish penalties for delinquent fees under Part 821, including a \$25 penalty if a fee were delinquent for 15 days and the suspension of a person's driver license if a fee remained delinquent after reasonable notice or demand.

-- Require any penalties collected under the bill to be used first to administer Part 821, with any remainder to be credited to the Recreational Snowmobile Trail Improvement Fund.

-- Provide for the issuance of a special identifying number or replacement vehicle number if a snowmobile's vehicle number had been altered, removed, or defaced, or were missing.

-- Provide that a dealer, for the purposes of Part 821, would not include an auctioneer, as defined in the Occupational Code.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 2009.

- Committee substitute S-1 was adopted
- HB 5085 advanced to 3rd Reading

SB 1211

(Garcia)

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow the Secretary of State to waive the driving skills test for a commercial driver license applicant who paid the applicable license fees for the vehicle group designation or indorsement, applied within one year of his or her honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces, and did both of the following:

-- Certified that, during the two years immediately preceding discharge, he or she met the conditions for waiver of the driving skills test specified in Federal regulations (49 CFR 383.77(a)) and was regularly employed in a military occupational specialty that required operation of a commercial motor vehicle.

-- Presented military documentation verifying that, for at least the two years immediately preceding discharge, he or she operated a vehicle representative of the commercial motor vehicle for which he or she sought a vehicle group designation or indorsement.

- SB 1211 advanced to 3rd Reading

HB 5585

(Espinoza)

The bill (substitute S-1) would amend the Manufacturing Milk Law to do the following:

-- Revise the requirements for licensure under the Law.

-- Require the money collected from license fees, fines, and other sources to be deposited into the Dairy and Food Safety Fund.

-- Permit the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director to impose a late fee of \$10 a day, up to \$100, for each day an application for a license renewal under the Law was late; charge a convenience fee; and collect from the applicant any cost associated with the method of payment.

-- Permit the MDA Director to suspend a license or permit if a licensee or permittee committed certain violations. -- Include new standards for the pasteurization of milk, condensed milk, and whey, and the mixing of pasteurized milk products.

-- Require a milk processing plant to provide certain minimum lighting levels and sufficient

electrical power, and meet other requirements.

-- Revise certain requirements for the handling of retail packages and packaged dairy products.

- Committee substitute S-1 was adopted
- HB 5585 advanced to 3rd Reading